

My name is Anthony V. Esposito. I am presently serving in my 17th year as Republican Registrar of Voters in the Town of Hamden, prior to that, 7 years as Deputy, and before that as: Head Moderator, District Moderator, and District Assistant Registrar-all told some 45 years working in and with the Registrars' Office. I also serve as Past President of ROVAC- having served 4 years as President. I have served as a Moderator Trainer for many years-training Moderators and Registrars across the State. I have also served some few years on the Certification Committee outlined in Statute.

I strongly oppose SB No. 1051, which I view as mainly a proposal to scrape the present structure of the Office of Registrar of Voters, for a number of reasons.

First, the present two party system insures that opposing views are protected in the Ballot Process- that is, each Registrar is representative of and beholdng only to the voters and not to elected officials. The preponderance of the statutes concerning the Office of Registrar and the tasks to be performed by Registrars are there to assure voters as to the transparency and even-handedness in the Electoral Process.

Second, it is unclear as to what skills are to be required when hiring of a Registrar. The present system uses the same standard for electing a Registrar as electing a State Senator or State Representative-that the person be nominated and duly elected. It has been my observation and experience that it takes two full years for a new registrar to find out what the job is, and another two years to be experienced enough to do the job right. Many experienced and competent registrars do not have college degrees, which I do not believe is essential.

Third, I can see no evidence that the most recent local problems constitute a state wide failure requiring the drastic action of condemning all registrars. One does not remedy a stubbed toe by amputating the leg at the hip.

Finally, the vast numbers of Registrars I have worked with across the State are dedicated public servants. I cannot believe that elected officials, who are now demanding changes, were ignorant of or indifferent to problems within their jurisdictions. This proposal seems to me to be a short term solution in the hope that the perceived or imagined problems will disappear when the spot light is focused elsewhere.

I regret that my good friend Rose Mentone, The Democrat Registrar of Voters in Hamden, could not be here as she is recuperating from recent back surgery- but she agrees with my stance on this proposed legislation.